

Message Text

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BELGRADE FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: EAGR, RO

SUBJECT: AGRIC JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING

1. MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING SIGNED APRIL 26; COPIES
TO BE POUCHED TO BOTH EMBASSIES. SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS
OF THE MEETING INCLUDED (AGATT FRECKMANN TO PROVIDE DETAILS):

A. INFORMATION EXCHANGE. ROMANIANS WERE MADE AWARE OF
OUR DISSATISFACTION WITH EXCHANGE SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER,
AND THAT U.S. EXPECTS DATA IN APPENDIX 2 OF FIRST MINUTES
TO BE TRANSMITTED AS SCHEDULED. DURING MEETING ROMANIAN
DELEGATION PROVIDED DATA FOR CATEGORIES IV, VII AND VIII
OF APPENDIX 2. INFORMATION ESSENTIALLY SAME AS REPORTED
IN PLAN FULFILLMENT IN FEB. SINCE NO MAJOR CHANGES DATA
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ARE BEING POUCHED. HEAD OF ROMANIAN DELEGATION DID MENTION
MORE DATA WILL BE GIVEN TO MARKET DEVELOPMENT TEAM AND
DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT. SUGGEST EMBASSY FOLLOW UP DURING
THESE VISITS FOR CATEGORIES V, VI, IX AND X.

THE US DELEGATION PROPOSED AN EXPANSION TO THE AGRIC DATA
EXCHANGE. ITEMS IX TO INCLUDE SOYBEANS AND SOYBEAN MEAL;

X GRAINS, BY TYPE, SOYBEANS, SOYBEAN MEAL, COTTON. . . ALL IN QUANTITY TERMS; XI, SOWN AREA OF WINTER GRAINS, BY TYPE. WE PROPOSED JANUARY AS TRANSMITTAL DATE (FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE APPENDIX 2 OF MINUTES OF SECOND MEETING). IN THE MINUTES ROMANIAN SIDE AGREED TO EXAMINE REQUEST AND PROVIDE ITS RESPONSE WITHIN 90 DAYS FROM SIGNING OF MINUTES. IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS, WE WERE INFORMED RESPONSE MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT. AGATT NEEDS TO FOLLOW UP WITH VASILIU.

B. COOPERATOR ACTIVITIES. ROMANIANS VERY PLEASED WITH DEVELOPING COOPERATION WITH USDA COOPERATORS. PROTOCOL WITH GREAT PLAINS WHEAT SIGNED AS PLANNED. WE ASSUME YOU HAVE COPY FROM ROMANIANS.

C. CCC CREDIT. FOR FISCAL YEAR 1979, THE ROMANIANS REQUESTED FINANCING THROUGH CCC CREDIT FOR 150,000-200,000 METRIC TONS OF SOYBEANS. THEY ALSO NOTED INTEREST IN OPENING OF CCC CREDIT LINE FOR THE IMPORTATION OF BREEDING LIVESTOCK. USDA STATED IT WOULD BE PLEASED TO CONSIDER THIS REQUEST.

D. SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES. AS EXPECTED, ROMANIANS CONTINUED TO SHOW MORE INTEREST HERE THAN IN INFORMATION EXCHANGE. SOME ROMANIAN ISSUES SAME. . . SUCH AS RECEIVING SIDE PAYS. HOWEVER, ROMANIANS EXPRESSED OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES.

E. US-ROMANIAN COOPERATION IN AGRIC PRODUCTION. ROMANIANS EXTREMELY SATISFIED WITH RECENT CEAUSESCU-BERGLAND VISIT AND THE HIGH LEVEL OF DISCUSSIONS REGARDING SUCH COOPERATION. AT THE WORKING GROUP SESSIONS, DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE REGARDING LONG-TERM PROGRAM OF ROMANIA'S PORK PRODUCTION THAT WOULD BE BASED ON THE SUPPLY OF U.S. FEEDS AND BREEDING STOCK, AND U.S. AGREEMENT TO IMPORT ROMANIAN PORK PRODUCTS. ROMANIANS DID NOT PRESENT ANY NEW OR CONCRETE IDEAS, AND DISCUSSION WAS RATHER CASUAL. WE DID CONTINUE TO POINT OUT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE AND IMPORTANT TO HAVE A MORE CONCRETE PROPOSAL PRIOR TO THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, IF THEY EXPECTED MORE SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS.

2. THE ROMANIANS DID VISIT RALSTON PURINA IN ST. LOUIS; WERE RECEIVED BY DR. DALE HATHAWAY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND COMMODITY PROGRAMS AND GREETED BY SECRETARY BERGLAND; HOSTED TO LUNCHEONS BY GREAT PLAINS WHEAT, AM SOYBEAN ASSOC, HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN ASSOC, AND US FEED GRAINS COUNCIL HOSTED A RECEPTION. WE CONCLUDED ROMANIANS WERE SATISFIED WITH MEETINGS AND VISIT

... WITH EXCEPTION OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND OUR EXPRESSED
DISSATISFACTION. THEY DID AGREE IN WRITING TO MEET SCHEDULE
... AFTER WE POINTED OUT THAT MOST CATEGORIES WERE TO BE
TRANSMITTED AFTER RELEASE IN PLAN FULFILLMENT OR THEIR
REPORT TO ECON COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE) IN MARCH.
PERHAPS THEY MAY BE LESS RELUCTANT NOW TO MEET SCHEDULE.
CHRISTOPHER

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